

What is claimed as new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A method of creating a playback database for an audiovisual work
5 comprising the acts of:

assigning a respective content ratings level to at least a portion of a scene of
said work;

creating a database containing information identifying the at least a portion
of the scene and the content ratings level; and

10 storing said database on a storage medium different from the medium that
stores the audiovisual work.

2. A method as in claim 1, wherein said assigning act is performed in
response to ratings level inputs from a reviewer.

3. A method as in claim 1, wherein said act of creating includes creating
15 said database containing identifying information which identifies those scenes

having content ratings levels which are less than or equal to a predetermined content ratings level.

4. A method as in claim 1, wherein said act of creating includes creating said database containing identifying information which identifies those scenes having content ratings levels which are greater than a predetermined content ratings level.

5 5. A method as in claim 1, wherein said act of creating includes creating a database containing information identifying content ratings levels for all scenes of a work.

10 6. A method as in claim 1, wherein said act of creating includes creating a database that contains data indicating which scenes of said work are to be reproduced.

7. A method as in claim 1, wherein said act of creating includes creating a database that contains data indicating which scenes of said work are not to be reproduced.

8. A method as in claim 1, wherein said act of creating includes creating a database containing information identifying said at least a portion of the scene by a frame number.

9. A method as in claim 1, wherein said act of creating includes 5 creating a database containing information identifying said at least a portion of the scene by a time stamp.

10. A method as in claim 1, wherein the act of storing said database includes storing said database on a server computer which allows said database to be accessible to client computers.

11. A method as in claim 1, wherein the act of storing said database 10 includes storing said database on a portable storage medium.

12. A method as in claim 3, wherein the act of storing said database includes storing said database on a removable computer readable disk.

13. A method as in claim 1, wherein said act of storing said database 15 includes storing said database on a storage medium accessible to an audiovisual work reproduction unit.

14. A method of creating a playback database for an audiovisual work comprising the acts of:

assigning a respective content ratings level to at least a portion of a scene of said work;

creating a database containing information identifying the at least a portion of the scene and the content ratings level; and

uploading said database to an Internet server.

15. A method of controlling reproduction of an audiovisual work comprising the acts of:

10 accessing a stored database containing information identifying at least a portion of a scene of said work having an assigned content ratings level which bears a predetermined relationship to a predetermined content ratings level; and

reproducing scenes of said work in accordance with said at least a portion of a scene which are identified in said database.

15 16. A method as in claim 15, said method further including reading an audiovisual work from a first storage medium.

17. A method as in claim 16, wherein said act of accessing includes reading said database from a second storage medium.

18. A method as in claim 15, wherein said act of accessing comprises establishing a connection to a server containing said database and downloading said database into a controller which controls reproduction of said work, said controller using the information in said database to control reproduction of said work.

19. A method as in claim 18, wherein said act of accessing includes establishing a connection to an Internet server, whereby said connection is an Internet connection.

20. A method as in claim 18, wherein said act of accessing includes establishing a dial-up connection.

21. A method as in claim 15, wherein said act of accessing includes accessing a database containing information identifying those scenes having a content ratings level which is less than or equal to said predetermined content ratings level.

22. A method as in claim 15, wherein said act of accessing includes accessing a database containing information identifying those scenes having a content ratings level which is greater than said predetermined content ratings level.

5 23. A method as in claim 15, wherein said act of accessing includes accessing a database containing data indicating which scenes of said work are to be reproduced.

10 24. A method as in claim 15, wherein said act of accessing includes accessing a database containing data indicating which scenes of said work are not to be reproduced.

25. An apparatus for creating a playback database for an audiovisual work comprising:

a reproduction unit for reproducing scenes of said work;

15 an input device for assigning a ratings level corresponding to a degree of objectionable content to at least a portion of a scene of said work;

a device for creating a database containing an identification of the at least a portion of the scene having an assigned content ratings level; and

a storage medium different from the medium that stores the audiovisual work for storing said database.

26. An apparatus as in claim 25, further comprising a server, said database being stored on a storage medium of said server.

27. An apparatus as in claim 25, wherein said storage medium is a portable storage medium.

28. An apparatus as in claim 27; wherein said storage medium is a removable computer readable disk.

29. An apparatus as in claim 25, wherein said device assigns an input content ratings level to each scene of said work.

30. An apparatus as in claim 25, wherein said input device receives inputs from a movie reviewer and said database is stored on a storage medium accessible to a work reproduction unit in a household.

31. An apparatus as in claim 30, wherein said database contains ratings level information for all scenes of said work.

32. An apparatus as in claim 25, wherein said database contains data indicating which scenes of said work are to be reproduced.

33. An apparatus as in claim 25, wherein said data contains data indicating which scenes of said work are not to be reproduced.

5 34. An apparatus as in claim 25, wherein said identifying information identifies those scenes having a content ratings level which is less than or equal to said predetermined content ratings level.

10 35. An apparatus as in claim 25, wherein said identifying information identifies those scenes having a content ratings level which is greater than said predetermined content ratings level.

36. An apparatus for controlling playback of an audiovisual work, said apparatus comprising:

15 a device for accessing a stored database containing an identification of those scenes of said work having a content ratings level which bears a predetermined relationship to a predetermined content ratings level; and

a reproduction unit for reproducing scenes of said work in accordance with scenes which are identified in said database.

37. An apparatus as in claim 36, further comprising a device for accessing said database by way of an Internet connection.

38. An apparatus as in claim 36, further comprising a device for accessing said database by way of a dial-up connection.

39. An apparatus as in claim 36, wherein said access device includes a controller for controlling said reproduction unit, said controller using the information contained in said database to control reproduction of said work by said reproduction unit .
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40. An apparatus as in claim 39, wherein said controller is a computer.

10 41. An apparatus as in claim 36, wherein said identifying information identifies those scenes having a content ratings level which is less than or equal to said predetermined content ratings level.

15 42. A method as in claim 36, wherein said identifying information identifies those scenes having content ratings level which is greater than said predetermined content ratings level.

43. An apparatus as in claim 36, wherein said database contains data indicating which scenes of said work are to be reproduced.

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44. An apparatus as in claim 36, wherein said data contains data indicating which scenes of said work are not to be reproduced.

45. A stored information apparatus comprising:

a recording medium; and

a database stored on said recording medium, said database containing information identifying scenes of an audiovisual work which have a content ratings level which bears a predetermined relationship to a predetermined content ratings level, said identifying information being usable to control an audiovisual reproduction unit to reproduce selected scenes of said audiovisual work.

10 46. An apparatus as in claim 45, wherein said identifying information identifies those scenes having a content ratings level which is less than or equal to said predetermined objectionable content ratings level.

15 47. An apparatus as in claim 45, wherein said identifying information identifies those scenes having a content ratings level which is greater than said predetermined content ratings level.

48. An apparatus as in claim 45, wherein said database contains data indicating which scenes of said work are to be reproduced.

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49. An apparatus as in claim 45, wherein said database contains data indicating which scenes of said work are not to be reproduced.

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50. An apparatus as in claim 45, wherein said stored information apparatus does not include the audiovisual work.